

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9504

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

DIRNSA

COMUSMACTHAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 4895

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, TH

SUBJECT: U.S. RESIDUAL FORCES IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 4894

1. AFTER THE AMBASSADOR'S MEETING MARCH 3 WITH UNDER SECRETARY ANAN, REPORTED REFTEL, POLITICAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL KOSON, AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS CHIEF, WORAPHUT, TOOK POMILCOUNS ASIDE FOR A BRIEF FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION. THEY ASKED HOW POMILCOUNS ASSESSED PROSPECT OF A SOLUTION TO WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN IMPASSE. POMILCOUNS REPLIED THAT PRIOR TO THE MEETING THAT HAD JUST CONCLUDED, HE HAD FELT CONFIDENT THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED. THE US HAD HAD NO GREAT CONCEPTUAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THE IDEA OF A SET OF PRINCIPLES BASED ON THAI SOVEREIGNTY. HOWEVER, THE IMMUTABILITY OF PRINCIPLE ONE WAS A SERIOUS OBSTACLE. GIVEN THAI

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ADAMANCY ON THIS, HE SAW LITTLE PROSPECT THAT WASHINGTON

COULD AGREE.

2. POMILCOUNS ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO AGREE, EVEN ORALLY, THAT, WITHOUT MAKING SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO, FOR EXAMPLE, THE EXISTING KO KHA, RAMASUN OR CHIANG MAI AGREEMENT, OR THE 1950 MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT CASES ARISING UNDER THE THAI PRINCIPLE ONE WOULD IN PRACTICE BE DEALT WITH AS THEY PRESENTLY WERE, PENDING NEGOTIATION OF NEW AGREEMENTS. ANAN HAD SEEMED TO REJECT THIS APPROACH, BUT POMILCOUNS WANTED TO BE SURE THAT HE HAD CORRECTLY UNDERSTOOD. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS DOUBTFUL THAT SUCH AN APPROACH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO WASHINGTON, BUT IT COULD NOT EVEN BE FLOATED THERE IF ANAN HAD RULED IT OUT.

3. KOSON AND WORAPHUT DID NOT SEEM TO THINK THAT ANAN HAD, IN FACT, INTENDED TO RULE OUT SUCH AN APPROACH. THEY FELT, HOWEVER, THAT ANY WORKING AGREEMENT OF THE KIND IN QUESTION WOULD HAVE TO BE LIMITED IN TIME, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT NEW AGREEMENTS WOULD BE NEGOTIATED WITHIN, SAY, THREE MONTHS. POMILCOUNS EXPRESSED DOUBT AS TO WHETHER THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

4. POMILCOUNS ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A REFERENCE DURING THE MEETING TO FURTHER ACTIVITY IN THE SAIYUT COMMITTEE. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD FROM SAIYUT SINCE THE LAST COMMITTEE MEETING, AND WONDERED WHETHER HE COULD EXPECTED TO HEAR FROM HIM NOW. IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO WORK OUT, AT LEAST ON A STANDBY BASIS, THE MODALITIES OF TURNOVERS.

5. KOSON AND WORAPHUT OBSERVED THAT SAIYUT WAS TAKING A VERY LIMITED VIEW OF HIS MANDATE, SEEMING TO THINK HE WAS LIMITED TO RAMASUN. THEY AGREED THAT DISCUSSION AND PLANNING OF THE KIND POMILCOUNS WAS SUGGESTING SHOULD GO FORWARD AND SAID THEY WOULD HAVE ANAN TALK TO THE NECESSARY PEOPLE (WHOM THEY DID NOT IDENTIFY). WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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